

MERRY-GO-ROUND

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON, March 12

—Talking privately with Secretary of State Dulles, President Eisenhower flatly rejected any idea of making a deal with Russia to settle the cold war at the sacrifice of American principles.

The matter came up when Dulles and the President were drawing up the resolution on the subjugation of free peoples. Dulles pointed out the possibility that the resolution might turn out to be the main stumbling block in the way of an armistice in the cold war.

If the Soviet leaders should offer to settle the cold war by dividing the world into the present spheres of influence, Dulles warned, then the President's resolution might make it awkward to talk terms.

Eisenhower bluntly replied that he would never enter negotiations with the Soviet leaders to compromise any of the principles of his resolution.

Propaganda Problems

Eisenhower's alert new psychological warfare expert, C. D. Jackson, has been working late at night and most of Sunday trying to figure out moves to take advantage of Stalin's death.

Inside fact is that his efforts are frowned upon by the State Department, which opposes any boat-rocking at this time.

Real fact is that Stalin's death caught our foreign-policy planners unprepared. For several years George Kennan, ex-ambassador to Moscow, and author of the Russian-containment policy, had talked about the momentous possibilities following Stalin's death. So had "Chip" Bohlen, the new ambassador to Moscow. But no concrete, comprehensive plan was ready.

This highlights the difficulties which the public doesn't understand regarding U. S. propaganda. Here are some of them:

DIFFICULTY NO. 1. — The State Department is a policy organization, not an executive organization.

DIFFICULTY NO. 2. — Yet the State Department must have the final power to censor official U. S. propaganda. Otherwise, the Voice of America and other propaganda agencies might be galloping off in various directions completely counter to official U. S. policy.

DIFFICULTY NO. 3. — To get around this fact and the further fact that official U. S. propaganda must be far more cautious than unofficial propaganda, Radio Free Europe and Radio Free Asia were set up. However, it's now pretty well

known in Europe, including Russia, that these two organizations are actually subsidized by the United States.

That's why Radio Free Europe has lost part of its effectiveness.

Radio Free Europe was a live-wire influential organization when C. D. Jackson, able chief of Ike's psychological warfare board, was in charge. But it's gone downhill since.

Paradoxical Smith

General "Beetle" Smith, the astute Undersecretary of State who is now ruling on the Voice of America, happens to be in a paradoxical position regarding propaganda. As former head of Central Intelligence Smith poured several millions into Radio Free Europe, which was

partly competing with the Voice of America. Many State Department officials resent the competition and the publicity buildup given it in the United States.

Today, as Undersecretary of State, General Smith is on the other side of the propaganda fence, is a top boss of the Voice, whose competitor he once subsidized.

All this points to the need for overhauling American propaganda. It also points to the need of a bona fide private committee of prominent American citizens, representing not merely business but labor, farmers, the service organizations, to push home to the Russian people the all-important fact that the American people do want peace.

There are times when individual groups of Americans can act with more effectiveness than their government. And inasmuch as justifiable suspicion exists between Washington and the Kremlin, this may be a crucial moment when individual Americans could organize for the difficult, vitally important job of penetrating the Iron Curtain with people-to-people friendship.

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